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the data which are necessary to refer the velocities to the Sun, and would also give a rough orientation of the orbit. Such an orbit, however, would not be comparable in accuracy to an orbit computed from accurate observations of position. MOULTON¹ has developed a method for the determination of a parabolic orbit from two observations of apparent position, and one of the motion in the line of sight. The difficulty of obtaining accurate positions of this comet during the first week after announcement of its discovery indicates that radial velocities might find a useful practical application on rare occasions like the present one. The D-lines were sufficiently intense in the comet's spectrum to warrant the belief that it would have been entirely possible, weather permitting, to have photographed them with high dispersion in broad daylight on the first few days after the discovery of the comet. S. ALBRECHT.

April, 1910.

ASYMMETRICAL LINES IN SUN-SPOT SPECTRA.

In a note on the classification of the lines in sun-spot spectra, which appeared in the last number of these *Publications*, I omitted to mention the asymmetrical lines, which promise to be of great interest when additional laboratory data become available for purposes of comparison. Some remarkable cases of asymmetry not at first supposed to be such because of their wide departure from the normal type, have recently been detected. Extensive investigations on the Zeeman effect for chromium, nickel, and other elements, upon which Dr. KING and Mr. BABCOCK are now engaged, will soon show the behavior of these lines in the laboratory.

In addition to the triplets and quadruplets mentioned in the same note, lines split by the magnetic field into a greater number of components undoubtedly appear in sun-spot spectra, though they are not resolved on our present photographs.

GEORGE E. HALE.

¹ *Astrophysical Journal*, 10, 14, 1899.